Robot Surgery

†*494. SHRIMATI SAV1TA SHARDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be oleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have refused to allow Robot Surgery;

(b) if so, whether any difficulty is being felt by Government to accept the proposal; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) No proposal regarding robot surgery has been received.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Environmental pollution due to shipbreaking activity

*495. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH SURYA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether ship-breaking activity causes environmental pollution;

(b) if so, whether adequate measures have been taken for taking care of this problem;

(c) whether the cases of flouting those norms have come to notice; and

(d) if so, the action taken against erring persons/organisations?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI VED PRAKASH GOYAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Various measures taken by the Government for taking care of this problem are as under:

(i) Ministry of Environment and Forests has constituted an Advisory Committee to advise on the aspects to the regulation of ship breaking for sound Environmental Planning and Management (EMP) including proper handling of hazardous waste.

(ii) The Environmental Guidelines on ship breaking industry have been prepared by the Central Pollution Control Board and circulated to the concerned State Pollution Control Boards for implementation. A regular monitoring mechanism is in place.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(iii) Ship-breaking activity is controlled within the provision of various Acts and Rules namely, Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, Hazardous Waste Rules, 1989, Factories Act, 1948 etc. Central Pollution Control Board, State Control Board and Ministry of Environment and Forests monitor the level of pollution at the Shipbreaking Yards from time to time.

(iv) The Government of Gujarat has recently notified a regulation called Gujarat Maritime Board (Prevention of Fire and Accidents for Safety and Welfare of Workers and Protection of Environment during Ship breaking Activities) Regulations, 2000 under Gujarat Maritime Board Act, 1981. As per the Regulation, the Ship breakers need to enter into a licence agrement for ship breaking activities, beaching and cutting permission and compliance of environmental safety meaures and housekeeping.

(v) Gujarat Maritime Board has awarded the consultancy work for scientific management of solid wastes generated during ship breaking activity. The scope of work includes waste quantification, characterization, design of treatment and disposal facilities and post project monitoring.

(c) and (d) No such flouting of norms on the part of ship-breaking yards has been brought to the notice of the administrative Ministry concerned *i.e.* Ministry of Steel. However, Ship breaking activity is regulated as per the regulatory measures mentioned above.

Vacancies in PSUs

*496. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of top posts of Chairmen/CEOs/Directors lying vacant in Public Sector Undertakings for the last three years, till date;

(b) whether non-filling of top posts has resulted in poor efficiency and lack of talent/skill of such PSUs; and

(c) if so, by when Government propose to fill up these vacant posts in order to enhance efficiency and profitability of PSUs?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Three posts of Chief Executives and four posts